

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

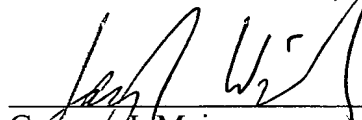
Claims 1-3 remain active in this case.

In the outstanding Official Action, the present application was allowed. However, the outstanding Office Action indicated that the references cited on the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed December 14, 2005 were not available to the Examiner. Copies of the references listed on the IDS filed December 14, 2005 are enclosed herewith. Furthermore, the International Search Report, also filed December 14, 2005, serves as a statement of relevancy.

As no other issues are believed to remain outstanding relative to this application, it is believed to be clear that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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